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Author Visits | Book Discussions | Events | & More

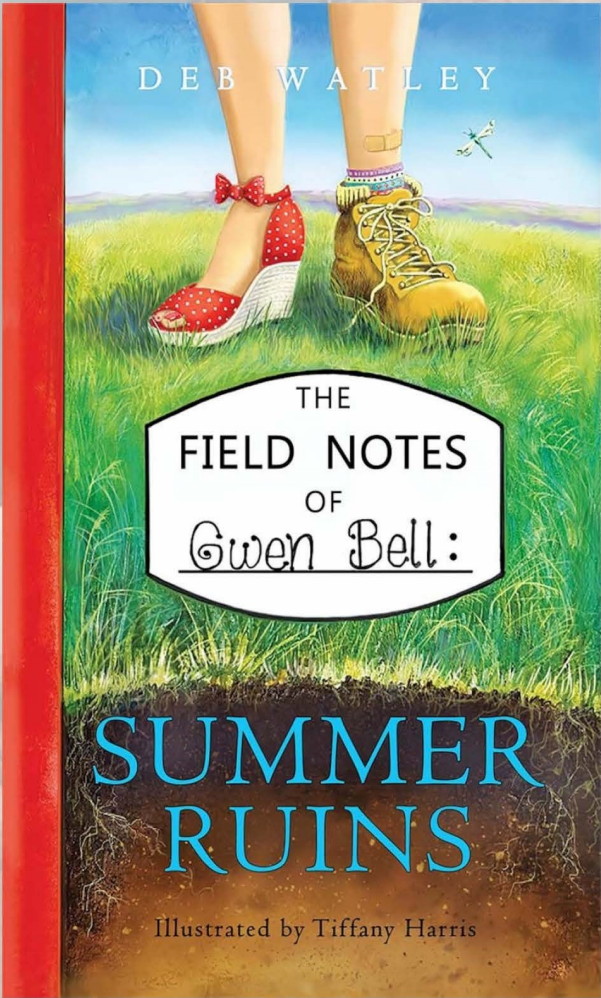
2023 RED RIVER VALLEY KIDS READ

- Fargo • Moorhead • West Fargo
- Grand Forks • Wahpeton

March 1 – 31

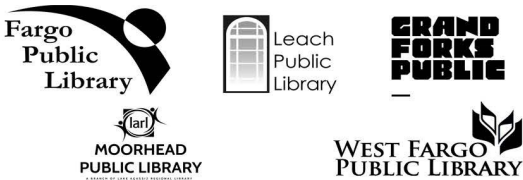
A regional reading event for kids featuring the book

SUMMER RUINS by Deb Watley



Events are FREE & open to the public.

PARTNER LIBRARIES:



SUPPORT FOR THIS PROJECT PROVIDED BY:



About Summer Ruins

Eleven-year-old Gwen Bell was not happy about getting roped into spending her summer with her parents, both professors, on an archeological dig in South Dakota. Especially since she is tasked to babysit two young boys. She has other ideas about how to enjoy the summer and her approaching 12th birthday. Through a series of mishaps and adventures, and despite her best efforts, Gwen soon learns a bit about archeology, and a lot about life.

Summer Ruins is the first book in the series “The Field Notes of Gwen Bell.”



About the Author

Deb Watley lives in South Dakota where she loves to ride horses and read and write about archeology, history, horses, treasure hunts, and friendships. *Summer Ruins*, the first novel in *The Field Notes of Gwen Bell* series, earned a 2019 Oregon Christian Writers Cascade Award.

Deb is a member of the Alliance of Independent Authors (ALLi), and the South Dakota Archaeological Society. Visit her website at www.debwatleybooks.com

About the Illustrator

Tiffany Harris is an award winning illustrator and high school art teacher. She earned the 2016 Moonbeam Children’s Book silver medal for *Freddie the Frog and the Invisible Coqui* by Sharon Burch.

When she’s not teaching, Tiffany can be found creating in her studio, roaming the woods with her dog Finn, or paddling in her kayak. Visit Tiffany on [Instagram.com/tiffanytreeart](https://www.instagram.com/tiffanytreeart).

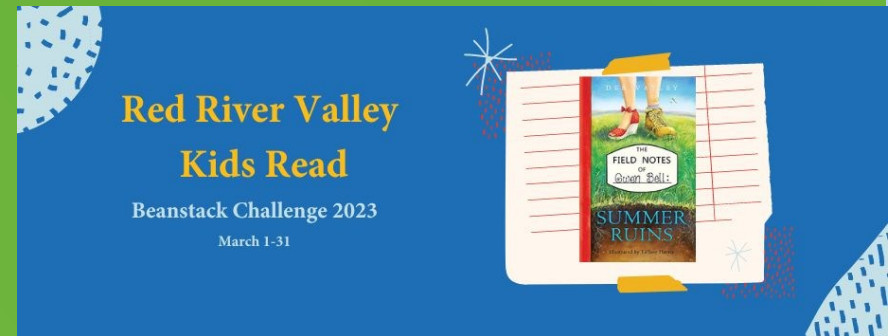


Reading Challenge

Take part in the 2023 Red River Valley Kids Read Challenge by reading and completing activities related to the book in Beanstack. Complete the challenge and earn entries into a drawing for prizes. Visit one of the following library Beanstack accounts to get started:

- fargolibrary.beanstack.org
- westfargolibrary.beanstack.org

or pick up a paper challenge form at the Leach Public Library or the Moorhead Public Library. (*Paper forms will also be available at the Fargo Public Library.*)



Related Reads

Addison Cooke and the Treasure of the Incas by Jonathan Stokes
Book 1 in the “Addison Cooke” series (Fargo and West Fargo Public Libraries)

Aru Shah and the End of Time by Roshani Chokshi
Book 1 in the “Pandava” series (Fargo, Leach, Moorhead, West Fargo Public Libraries)

Boots and Buckets by Deb Watley
Book 2 in “The Field Notes of Gwen Bell” series (Fargo Public Library)

City Under the Basement by Stefan Petrucha and Sarah Kinney
Book 18 in the “Nancy Drew, Girl Detective” graphic novel series (Fargo and Moorhead Public Libraries)

The Clue in the Painted Pattern by Ken Bowser
A “Jesse Steam Mystery” (Fargo Public Library)



Events

Join us for free events related to the book and archeology.

Dig Into Science!

**March 18 from 2-4 p.m.
Moorhead Public Library
118 5th St. S., Moorhead**

Join us for a multi-station science exploration event where you get to dig into topics explored in *Summer Ruins* by Deb Watley. Stations will include a tabletop fossil and dinosaur dig, make your own field journal, rock painting with Fargo-Moorhead Rocks and other earth science and nature activities.



Photo courtesy of Dr. John Creese

Archeology Lab Tours

**March 25 with sessions at 9:30 a.m., 12:30, 2 p.m. and 3:30 p.m.
NDSU Archeology Lab**

You might already know that archeologists look for old things by digging in the ground, but searching for historical artifacts is a bit more complicated than just digging a hole! And what happens to the artifacts after they're found? Kids in grades 4-6 can learn more about this fascinating field of study when we tour NDSU's Archeology Lab with Dr. John Creese, anthropological archeologist and Associate Professor of Anthropology. Four tour times are available. Space is limited. Pre-registration is required and may be completed online at www.fargolibrary.org. Registrants will receive directions and additional information the day before the tours. Due to the small lab space, please minimize the number of adults accompanying children.



Photo courtesy of Dr. John Creese

Fun with Fossils and Archeology

**March 21 at 6:30 p.m.
West Fargo Public Library
215 3rd St. E., West Fargo**

Kids ages 6-12 are invited for an hour-long exploration of fossils and archeology. Together, we will learn more about archeological discoveries AND kids will be able to make their own fossil to take home.

Author Visits

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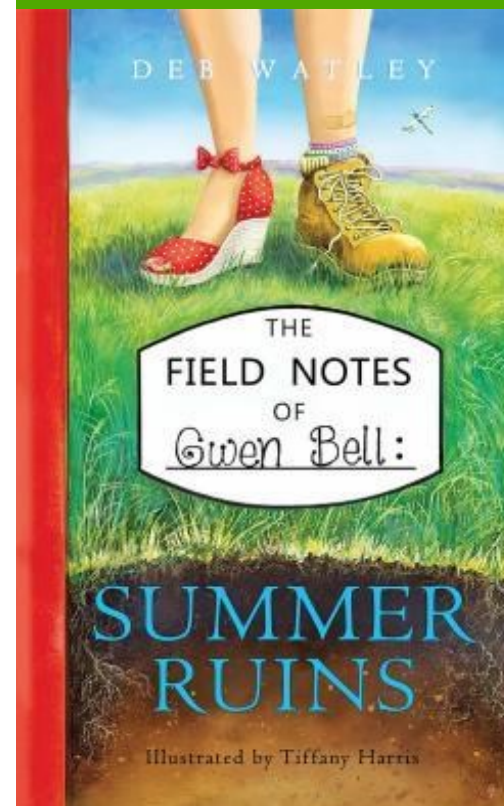
**March 10 – Leach Public Library
2 p.m.
417 2nd Ave. N., Wahpeton**



**March 11 – Bonanzaville
2 p.m.
1351 Main Ave. W., West Fargo**

Author visit will be followed by a guided tour of Main Building artifacts, for those in attendance, conducted by curator Dave Hubin.

Book Discussions



Going Places Book Club

**March 14 at 4 p.m.
Fargo Public Library – Main
101 4th St. N., Fargo**

Kids in grades 3-7 are invited to experience *Summer Ruins*-related activities, discussion, snacks and crafts. Pick up your book and register at the Children's Desk or call 701-241-1495.

Children's Book Discussion

**March 22 at 3:30 p.m.
Leach Public Library
417 2nd Ave. N., Wahpeton**

Events

Join us for free events related to the book and archeology.



Special Saturday Storytime with MSUM Anthropologist Dr. Amanda Butler

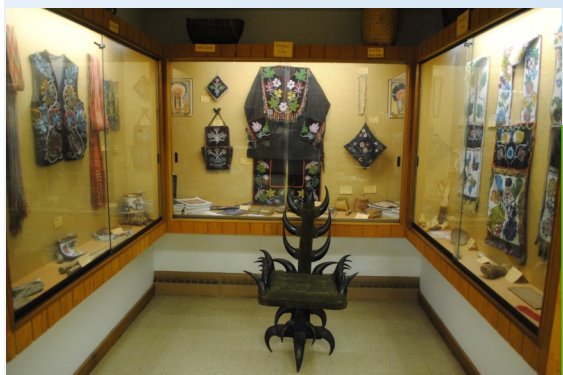
**March 4 at 10:30 a.m.
Moorhead Public Library
118 5th St. S., Moorhead**

Explore rocks, fossils, and other archeological finds in this storytime with anthropologist Dr. Amanda Butler. Families will enjoy stories, songs, rhymes, and activities relating to archeology and earth science with a real scientist!

Read Across America Day

**March 4 at 2 p.m.
Grand Forks Public Library
2110 Library Circle, Grand Forks**

Celebrate Read Across America Day with *Summer Ruins!* We'll have a DJ dance party, games, an archeology-themed scavenger hunt and more. Free copies of the book will be available while supplies last.



Exploring Our Past

**March 8 at 2 p.m.
Richland County Museum
11 7th Ave. N., Wahpeton**

Explore the history of Wahpeton and Richland County at the Richland County Historical Museum. Museum volunteers will guide us through the exhibits and share some of the hidden history of the county.



Events

Join us for free events related to the book and archeology.

Uncovering Pieces of the Past

**March 14 at 2 p.m.
Fargo Public Library — Main Library
101 4th St. N., Fargo**

Archeology is the study of the past using materials that people left behind. It is practiced in every country in the world. Archeology is even practiced in the Fargo-Moorhead area! In our region, archeologists study the Native American past and the more recent 19th century and early 20th century American past. Dr. George Holley, archeologist and retired MSUM professor, will explain the practice of archeology at this fun event. He'll provide hands-on opportunities and a chance to view items of the past found in our region. This event is most appropriate for kids ages 8 and older.



Photos courtesy of Dr. George Holley



Kids' Crafternoons: Pinch and Coil Pottery

**March 14 at 4 p.m. — Pinch Pots
March 21 at 4 p.m. — Coil Pots
Leach Public Library
417 2nd Ave. N., Wahpeton**

Learn about two of the oldest types of pottery forms and leave with your own projects made out of air dry clay.

**March 20 at 3 to 4:30 p.m. — Coil Pots
Fargo Public Library — Dr. James Carlson Library
March 21 at 3 to 4:30 p.m. — Coil Pots
Fargo Public Library — Northport Library
For makers ages 12 and younger.**